

January 17th, 2008 Finance Committee Meeting with Department Heads

Meeting was attended by Larry Pape, Frank H., Matt Emsley, John Potter, Lisa Call, John Kilkoyne, Bob Brown, Terri Ackerman, Bruce Turner, department heads, others, (whom I do not know) Russ Philpot and Selectman Paul S.

Meeting began at 7:10.

John Potter presented slide show. Keys points:

Budget assumes 2 ½% levee limit

Revenue from FY08 is up 5.09%, however, FY 09 Department requests reflect a 7.3% increase over FY 08

WRSD is unknown, presented three scenarios reflecting 3%, 6% and 9% increases, we now fund about 19% of WRSD this may change slightly as Rutland may be paying a larger percentage

For each 1% of budget increase, the tax bill for median value home increases \$40

FY 09 is overall an average fiscal year, though FY 10 and FY 11 conditions are likely to worsen due to downturn in economy, slow growth and they are not election years when the state tends to be more generous

One discussion focused on the WRSD after Mr. Philpot asked a question regarding their history of not presenting a budget request with other departments. Paul S. and Bruce Turner both responded with their disappointment. Paul feels their committee is too large, though he cannot, "give you a good answer." Mr. Turner feels they should submit a budget early with estimates and level funding.

Terri stated that articles for town warrant are due on February 28th as the town meeting is scheduled for May 12th and it needs to go to press in early April.

Terri wanted to give a big thank you to Bruce Turner, Donna Couture, Flo Coughlin and Beth for all their hard work with compiling the budgets. Great Job!

Meeting adjourned at 7:50.